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Dockets management branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers La Room 1061
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To whom it may concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current technology of treated with irradiation" or "treated with radiation" and the use of the radar symbol on all irradiated foods.

Radiation of foods is a material fact and should be disclosed to consumers. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities, and nutrients are affected. Some irradiated foods have a different texture and spoilage characteristics than non-irradiated foods, most fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

In addition, processing by irradiation causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. Meat may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene. All irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested.

Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. Consumers certainly have a right to know if this process has been used on their food!

As to the kind of label used, it should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package. The label contains important information regarding the processing of the contents. For displayed whole foods such as produce, a prominent informational display similar to that used for meats should be used, but containing the term "irradiation" and the radura.

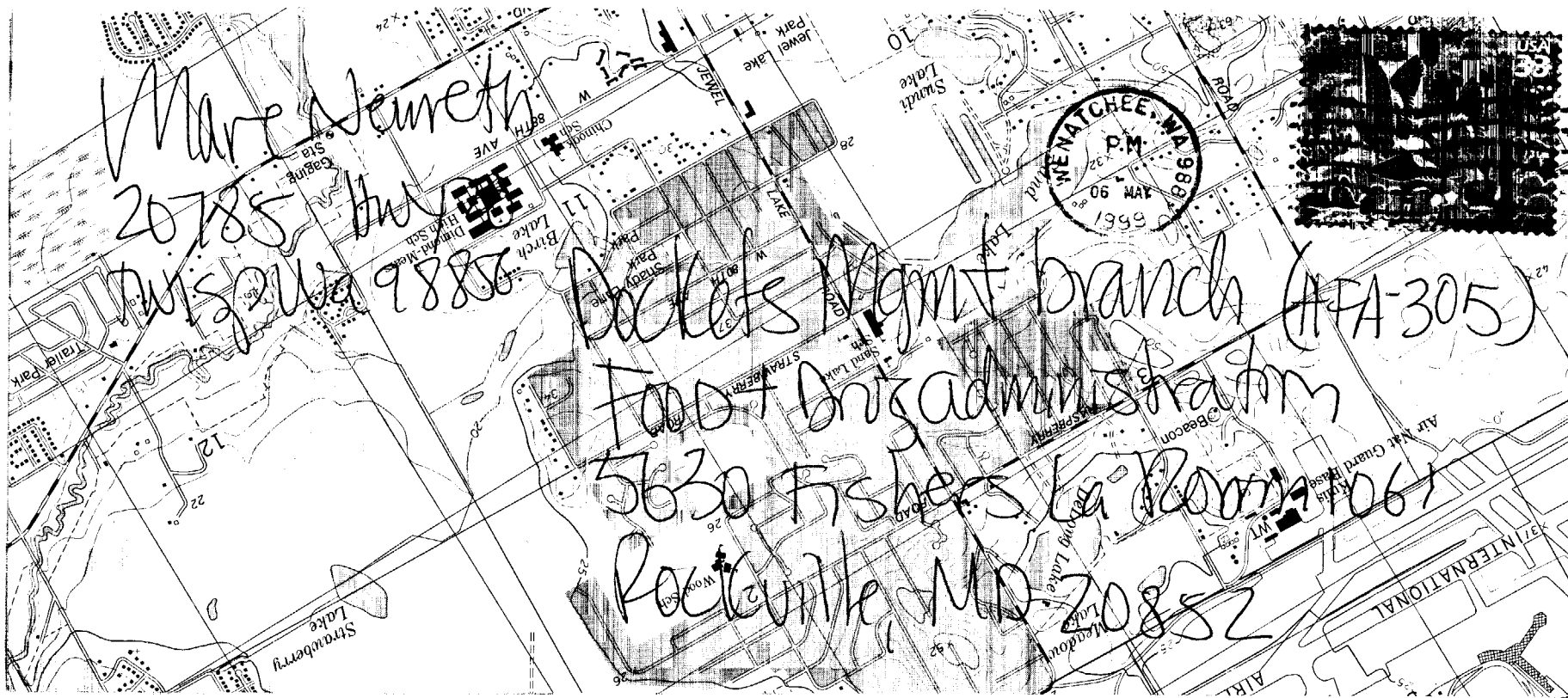
Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire. As a professional food handler, chef and health food specialist, I want to insure the finest quality of food product for my clients and my family.

Yours truly,
Mare Nemeth



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